

Cantopi

Robert L. Harris, conductor
Peter Schickele,
commission composer

presents

PREMIERS!

March 9, 1998

8:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

program

Rejoice in the Lamb

Benjamin Britten

Jubilate Agno - Christopher Smart

chorus: Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb. Nations, and languages and every creature, in which is the breath of Live. Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together

Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar, and consecrate his spear to the Lord. Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord has let him at large. Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures for a reward eternal. Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus. Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him, that cloatheth the naked. Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the Dance. Let David bless with the Bear-The beginning of victory to the Lord-to the lord the perfection of excellence.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

soprano solo: For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry. For he is the servant of the Living God, duly and daily serving him. For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way. For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness. For he knows that God is his Saviour. For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements. For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest. For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty, from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

alto solo: For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour. For-this is a true case-Cat takes female mouse-male mouse will not depart, but stands threat'ning and daring. . . . If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are. For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour. For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

tenor solo: For the flowers are great blessings. For the flowers have their angels even the words of God's Creation. For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary. For there is a language of flowers. For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

chorus: For I am under the same accusation with my Saviour - For they said, he is besides himself. For the officers of the peace are at variance with me, and the watchman smites me with his staff. For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! is against me and belongeth neither to me nor to my family. For I am in twelve HARSHIPS, but he that was born of a virgin shall deliver me out of all.

bass solo and chorus: For H is a spirit and therefore he is God. For K is king and therefore he is God. For L is love and therefore he is God. For M is musick and therefore he is God.

For the instruments are by their rhimes. For the Shawm rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and the like. For the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like. For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the like. For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the like. For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like. For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat the like. For the Clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like. For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound soar more and the like. For the TRUMPET of God is a blessed intelligence and so are all the instruments of HEAVEN. For GOD the father Almighty plays upon the HARP of stupendous magnitude and melody.

For at that time malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace. For this time is perceptible to man and by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

Diane O'Brien, soprano **Randy Canady, tenor**
Elizabeth van Beest, mezzo soprano **Daniel Cohen, baritone**

No Man Is an Island (world premier) Zdenek Lukas

No man Is an Island, entire of itself; ev'ry man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea Europe is the less, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me because I am involved with mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.

Diane O'Brien, soprano

The Sands of Dee

Robert H. Young

'Oh Mary, go and call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee.'
The western wind was wild and dark with foam,
And all alone went she.

The western tide crept up along the sand,
and o'er and o'er the sand
And round and round the sand
As far as eye could see.
The rolling mist came down and hid the land,
And never home came she.

'Oh! is it weed, or fish, or floating hair -
A tress of golden hair,
A drowned maiden's hair,
Above the nets at Sea?
Was never salmon yet that shone so fair
Among the stakes of Dee.

They rolled her in across the rolling foam,
The cruel, crawling foam,
The cruel, hungry foam,
To her grave beside the sea,
But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee.

No Man Is an Island

Zdenek Lukas

intermission

Incantations

Peter Schickele

Based on Scottish texts from the *Carmina Gadelica*

Thou white swan, Hu hi, ho ho; Sad thy condition. Hu hi, ho, ho;
Pitiful thy state, Hu hi, ho ho; Thy blood flowing, Hu hi, ho ho;

Thou white swan, Hu hi, ho ho; Far from thy friends, Hu hi, ho ho;
Dame of thy converse, Hu hi, ho ho; Remain near me, Hu hi, ho ho;

Leech of gladness thou, Hu hi, ho ho, Save my little child, Hu hi, ho ho;
Shield him from death, Hu hi, ho ho, Hasten him to health, Hu hi, ho ho;
As thou desirest, ho hi, ho ho;

Pain and sorrow, Hu hi, ho ho; To thine injurer, Hu hi, ho ho.

The Mary Mother, Hu hi, ho ho; Fair white lovely, Hu hi, ho ho;
Be fondling thee, Hu hi, ho ho; Be dandling thee, Hu hi, ho ho;
Be bathing thee, Hu hi, ho ho; Be rearing thee, Hu hi, ho ho;

Be shielding thee, Hu hi ho ho; From the net of thine enemy, Hu hi, ho ho;
Be caressing thee, Hu hi, ho ho; Be guarding thee, Hu hi, ho ho;
Be filling thee, Hu hi, ho ho; With thy graces, Hu hi, ho ho;

The love of thy mother, thou, Hu hi, ho ho; The love of her love, thou;
The love of her love, thou; The love of the angels, thou, In Paradise!

Who is she the melodious lady-lord,
At the base of the knoll, At the mouth of the wave?
Not the alc, Not the duck,
Not the swan, And not alone is she.

Who is she the melodious lady-lord
At the base of the knoll, At the mouth of the wave?
Not the lark, Not the merle,
Not the mavis On the bough is she.

Who is she the melodious lady-lord,
At the base of the knoll, At the mouth of the wave?
Melodious lady-lord, God-like in loveliness,

Daughter of a king, Granddaughter of a king,
Great-grand-daughter of a king,
Great-great-grand-daughter of a king,
Great-great-great-granddaughter of a king,

Wife of a king, Mother of a king,
Foster mother of a king,
She lullabying a king And he under her plaid.

May the Trinity travel with her Wheresoever she goes,
Whithersoever she goes.

Wisdom of serpent be thine, Wisdom of raven be thine,
Wisdom of valiant eagle.

Voice of swan be thine, Voice of honey be thine,
Voice of the Son of the stars.

Beauty of sea be thine, Bounty of land be thine
Bounty of the father of heaven.

Life and health be thine, The age of joy be thine,
And the age of joy be thine.

Heidi Bindhammer, soprano

Three Choruses From e e cummings Peter Schickele

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a doll wired
to the radiator of his
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maggie and millie and molly and may
went down to the beach(to play one day)

's how dominic has a doll

and maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her
troubles,and

& every now & then my
wonderful
friend dominic depaola

milly befriended a star
whose rays five languid fingers were;

Gives me a most tremendous hug

knowing
i feel that

and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways while blowing
bubbles:and

we & worlds

may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.

are
less alive
than dolls &
dream

for whatever we lose(like a you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in the sea

Amazing Grace

arr. **Peter Schickele**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Incantations

Peter Schickele

The audience is invited to a reception upstairs in the
choir room in honor of **Peter Schickele**.

program notes

In 1943 Benjamin Britten, a committed pacifist, was in the United States performing and composing. He decided that he needed to be back in England and booked passage on a freighter which was making the crossing through the submarine infested waters of the North Atlantic. It was during that perilous trip, on board ship, that he composed two of his enduring choral masterpieces, the Ceremony of Carols and Rejoice in the Lamb.

The text for Rejoice in the Lamb comes from the writings of the 18th century poet, Christopher Smart. In the words of Walter Hussey, Smart was “deeply religious, but of a strange and unbalanced mind.” Several times during his life he was institutionalized and it was in those circumstances that Jubilate Agno, his last work, was written.

Britten selected passages from the fragments of what had been an extensive, wandering poem. In it Smart compared his circumstances to those of the persecuted Christ. He summons a number of characters of the Old Testament and joins them with creatures in praise of God. In the soprano solo he immortalizes his beloved pet cat, Jeffrey. The tenor solo contains the wonderful lines in praise of flowers, “the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.” Later he uses a succession of letters of the alphabet, using them as a combination of alliteration and rhyme in a masterful command of language.

No Man Is an Island is the latest in a joyous collaboration between the Czech composer Zdenek Lucas and *I Cantori*. The text was proposed during his visit to Savannah last June and tonight is the premier performance of his first composition in the English language.

The Sands of Dee refers to a treacherous sea coast which has a particular dangerous tidal flow and quicksand. The stakes referred to were guides to the only safe passage. The composer, Robert H. Young, has been commissioned by *I Cantori* for a new composition which will be heard in December.

It is with a sense of great honor and privilege that we present the world premier of Incantations by Peter Schickele. The text comes from the *Carmina Gadelica*, old Celtic manuscripts dating from the 15th century. Peter Schickele, better known to many by his alter ego P.D.Q. Bach, is a leading figure on the world's musical stage. Through PDQ he is known as a musical humorist, satirist, author and composer - with more than 15 recordings, four of them Grammy winners, as well as a book and dozens of printed compositions. He has also collaborated with Joan Baez, and contributed to the musical score of the (in)famous Broadway musical, Oh Calcutta!, and Sesame Street. He is, to say the least, versatile!

Not as well known to many, he is also a wonderful serious composer. It is a rare honor for *I Cantori* to participate in the creation of an addition to the oeuvre of Peter Schickele.

I Cantori

soprano

Heidi Bindhammer
Peggy Breese
Melissa Emery
Amy Mullis
Diane O'Brien
Stacie O'Connor
Mimi Witherington

alto

Charlotte Caplan
Carol Gray
Jennifer Herrin
Tonya Hillis
Elizabeth van Beest
Sonia Yoder

tenor

Randy Canady
Raymond R. Ellis
Jody Turner
Timothy Wheelles
Billy Wooten

bass

Daniel C. Cohen
Jeff Herrin
Gene L. Jarvis
Gregory Allen Johnson
Nathaniel Roper
Ira Ryan

manager
treasurer

Diane O'Brien
Raymond R. Ellis, jr.

Instrumentalists

Marina Lindblom, violin
Steve Ricket, double bass
Lorraine Jones, flute
Martin Hebert, oboe
Steven Primatic, percussion
Patricia Anderson, harp
Jamie Schiel, organ

Rehearsal Accompanists

Gene L. Jarvis
Raymond R. Ellis, jr.

Benefactors

Anne T. Cover
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Emery
John and Barbie Lientz
Maurice and Gay Gwinner
Mark Holt
Mr. and Mrs. George Latimer
Renee McGehee
in memory of **Rev. John Roper**
Hank and Linda Russell

acknowledgments

St. John's Episcopal Church
Fr. William Ralston, rector
Kenneth Yates, choirmaster
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Dr. James Anderson
Mark Johnson
Dr. James Russey
The Print Shop
Vern Kriner and Son

I Cantori First Performances

1993	Zdenek Lukas Francesco Durante	Requiem - American premier Laetatus Sum, Beatus Vir, Dixit Dominus - edited from composer's manuscript - first modern performance
1995	Daniel Pinkham George Root	Four Fragments From John Donne* The Serenade; Blessing and Honor; Roll On, Majestic Ocean - first modern performance
1996	Williametta Spencer Vaclav Nelhybel Kevin Hampton	And the Wild Rose Is a Dove* Hodie* O Magnum Mysterium world premier
1997	Zdenek Lukas Vera Kistlerova Christopher Roper Francesco Durante	Praedicatio* Morning Star - world premier The Lord's Prayer - first performance Concorso Fatto - edited from composers manuscript - first modern performance
1998	Peter Schickele Zdenek Lukas	Incantations* No Man Is an Island - world premier

*composer commissioned by I Cantori - world premier performance